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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark
Office
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 11 January 2000 (11.01.00)	
International application No. PCT/AU99/00357	Applicant's or agent's file reference 99P067
International filing date (day/month/year) 12 May 1999 (12.05.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 12 May 1998 (12.05.98)
Applicant MANOV, Atanas, Vissilev	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
10 December 1999 (10.12.99)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Jean-Marc Vivet Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

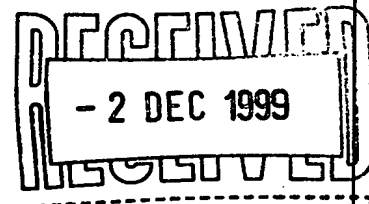
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NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:
INTELLPRO
Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys
Reserve Bank Building, Level 7
102 Adelaide Street
Brisbane, QLD 4000
AUSTRALIE



Date of mailing (day/month/year) 18 November 1999 (18.11.99)		
Applicant's or agent's file reference 99P067		IMPORTANT NOTICE
International application No. PCT/AU99/00357	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 May 1999 (12.05.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 12 May 1998 (12.05.98)
Applicant AMA CONSULTING ENGINEERS (QLD) PTY. LTD. et al		

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this Notice:
AU,CN,EP,IL,JP,KP,KR,US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present Notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:
AE,AL,AM,AP,AT,AZ,BA,BB,BG,BR,BY,CA,CH,CU,CZ,DE,DK,EA,EE,ES,FI,GB,GE,GH,GM,HR,HU,
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SG,SI,SK,SL,TJ,TM,TR,TT,UA,UG,UZ,VN,YU,ZA,ZW
The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this Notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on
18 November 1999 (18.11.99) under No. WO 99/58211

REMINDER REGARDING CHAPTER II (Article 31(2)(a) and Rule 54.2)

If the applicant wishes to postpone entry into the national phase until 30 months (or later in some Offices) from the priority date, a **demand for international preliminary examination** must be filed with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor the 19-month time limit.

Note that only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination.

REMINDER REGARDING ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE (Article 22 or 39(1))

If the applicant wishes to proceed with the international application in the **national phase**, he must, within 20 months or 30 months, or later in some Offices, perform the acts referred to therein before each designated or elected Office.

For further important information on the time limits and acts to be performed for entering the national phase, see the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 (Notification of Receipt of Record Copy) and Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

<p>The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35</p>	<p>Authorized officer J. Zahra</p> <p>Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38</p>
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 20 JUN 2000

16

Applicant's or agent's file reference 99P067	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International application No. PCT/AU99/00357	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 12 May 1999	Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 12 May 1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. ⁷ A63F 01/00		
Applicant AMA CONSULTING ENGINEERS (QLD) PTY LTD et al		

1.	This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.																								
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheet(s).																								
3.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;">I</td> <td style="width: 5%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td>II</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td>III</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IV</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>V</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VI</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VII</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VIII</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>	I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basis of the report	II	<input type="checkbox"/>	Priority	III	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	IV	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of unity of invention	V	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	VI	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain documents cited	VII	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain defects in the international application	VIII	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain observations on the international application
I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basis of the report																							
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VIII	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain observations on the international application																							

Date of submission of the demand 10 December 1999	Date of completion of the report 19 May 2000
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer MICHAEL C. LANDER Telephone No. (02) 6283 2494

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

- ☐ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description, pages 1-5, as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☒ the claims, pages 6, 8, as originally filed,
pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages 7, received on 24 May 2000 with the letter of 24 May 2000
- ☒ the drawings, pages 1/1, as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages , as originally filed
pages , filed with the demand
pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, was on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-14	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-14	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-14	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The following document identified in the International Search Report was considered relevant for the purposes of this report:

US 5257810.

Novelty (N) Claims 1-14

The citation does not disclose all of the features of any of the claims and hence the claims are novel. Specifically the citation does not disclose the feature of "one or more further betting zones associate with respective player and dealer betting zones the or each said further betting zones being designated for a prenominated or paramount winning hand for participants to place bets thereon" these zones being differentiated from the tie zones.

Inventive Step (IS) Claims 1-14

The claimed invention is not obvious in the light of any of the cited documents nor disclosed in any obvious combination, nor would the claimed invention be obvious to a person skilled in the art in the light of common general knowledge by itself or in combination with any of these documents.

8. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the surface has a player card position and a dealer card position, and the cards for the player hand and the dealer hand are respectively placed in the player card position and the dealer card position.
- 5 9. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the cards including one or more sets of numbered cards, one or more sets of picture cards and at least one set of "Ace" cards, and each numbered card having a value from 2 to 10, each picture card being designated the value of 10, and each "Ace" card being selectively counted as the value of 1 or 11.
- 10 10. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein for the game rules a bet on one of the player betting zones or on one of the dealer betting zones is a winning bet when the player hand or the dealer hand has a cumulative card values closest to 21 or has a Blackjack; and a bet on one of said further betting zones associated with the player betting zones or the dealer zones is a winning bet
- 15 when the player hand or the dealer hand has said prenominated or paramount winning hand.
11. The card game according to claim 10 wherein a card is given to each said player hand and the dealer hand and the player hand must draw a card when its card value or cumulative card value is under 17; when the player hand having a
- 20 Blackjack hand the player hand is either immediately declared a winning hand, or is declared a winning hand only if the dealer hand does not have a Blackjack hand; when the player hand having a cumulative card value exceeding 21 the dealer hand is either immediately declared a winning hand, or is required to draw a card at a time until having a cumulative card value of at least 17 and not exceeding 21.
- 25 12. The card game according to claim 10 or 11 wherein where both the player hand and the dealer hand have respectively cumulative card values exceeding 21 the hand having a value closest to 21 is declared the winning hand or alternatively a tie is declared.
13. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein the game is
- 30 played at a game table or on an electronic medium including an interactive

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU 99/00357

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTERInt Cl⁶: A63F 001/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHEDMinimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC A63F 001/00Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
AU:IPC AS ABOVEElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WPAT**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5257810 (SCHORR et al.) 2 November 1993 See whole document	1-14
A	US 5390934 (GRASSA) 21 February 1995 See in particular column 6 lines 38-61	1-14
A	US 5275416 (SCHORR et al.) 4 January 1994 See whole document	1-14

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C☐ See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

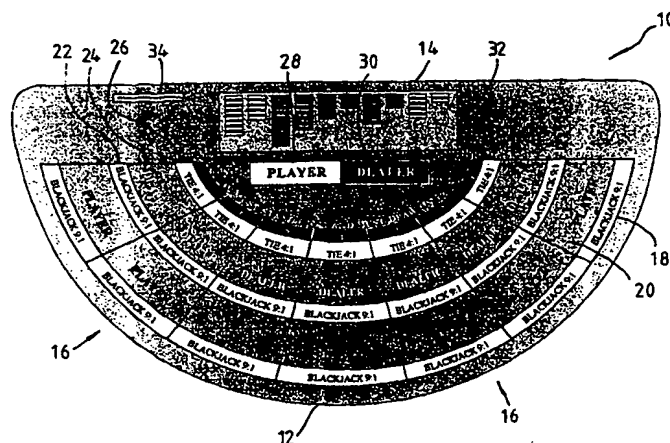
Date of the actual completion of the international search
22 July 1999Date of mailing of the international search report
28 JUL 1999Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU
AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
PO BOX 200
WODEN ACT 2606
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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : A63F 1/00		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/58211
			(43) International Publication Date: 18 November 1999 (18.11.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU99/00357 (22) International Filing Date: 12 May 1999 (12.05.99) (30) Priority Data: PP 3477 12 May 1998 (12.05.98) AU (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): AMA CONSULTING ENGINEERS (QLD) PTY. LTD. [AU/AU]; c/o Grasso Searles Romano, 266 Roma Street, Brisbane, QLD 4000 (AU). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): MANOV, Atanas, Vissilev [AU/AU]; 16 Ancilla Street, Mansfield, QLD 4122 (AU). (74) Agent: INTELLPRO; Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys, Reserve Bank Building, Level 7, 102 Adelaide Street, Brisbane, QLD 4000 (AU).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.	

(54) Title: A CARD GAME



(57) Abstract

A casino card game having a substantially semi-circle shaped card game surface (10) is provided for participants to selectively place bets on a player hand winning zone (20), player having Blackjack zone (18), the dealer hand winning zone (24), the dealer having Blackjack zone (22), and a tie betting zone (26). The surface (10) has seven sectors (16) and the above betting zones (18 to 26) are arranged in each of the sectors (16). Cards are dealt to only the player hand (28) and the dealer hand (30) positioned on the surface (10). A bet on a player hand winning zone (20) or a dealer hand winning zone (26) is a winner when the player hand (28) or the dealer hand (30) wins. A bet on a player Blackjack zone (18) or the dealer Blackjack zone (22) is a winner only when the player hand (28) or the dealer hand (30) has a Blackjack hand. A tie hand is declared when the cumulative card values of the player hand (28) and the dealer hand (30) are the same whether they are bust (exceeding 21) or not. A winning hand is declared when a hand has a cumulative card value of 17 or more and is closer to 21 than the other hand, or has a Blackjack hand and the other hand does not have a Blackjack hand. Winning bets are paid according to the odds allocated for the betting zones (18 to 26).

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A CARD GAME

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

THIS INVENTION relates to improvements in Casino card games and in particular but not limited to a "Blackjack" card game.

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Card games such as "Blackjack" card games are played in Casinos on a playing surface which normally has seven boxes and each box is limited to a maximum of three players. Therefore maximum number of players are limited.

Additionally the odds for winning for the players are low as players are
10 playing against the dealer.

The betting choices for the players are limited to their own hands.

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to alleviate or reduce to a certain level one or more of the above prior art disadvantages. In particular another
15 object of the present invention is to provide a new game that has the usual attraction associated with a known game such as "Blackjack" but with more and improved betting choices with odds designed to attract participants.

It is a further object to provide a new game where the number of players able to bet is increased.

20

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect the present invention resides in a card game for a dealer and at least one imaginary or real player receiving cards from the dealer, the game comprising a playing surface, one or more designated player betting zones along one side of the surface, where participants can bet on the player winning, one or
25 more designated dealer betting zones along an opposite side of the surface where the participants can bet on the dealer winning, and one or more further betting zones associated with respective player and dealer betting zones. The or each said further betting zones is designated for a preominated or paramount winning hand for participants to place bets thereon. In use one or each participant places
30 a bet on one or more of the betting zones and a dealer deals from one or more packs of cards cards for the player and for the dealer in a manner according to

card game rules. On completion of a hand participants are paid according to winning bets made and according to the game rules.

In preference, the surface has one or more tie zones for participants to place bets thereon so that a winning bet takes place when the dealer hand and the player hand are tied.

Typically there is one paramount zone for the dealer and one paramount zone for the player. An example of the prenominated winning hand is "Blackjack" in the game of that name.

It is also preferred that the playing surface is divided into sectors and each sector has one player zone, one dealer zone and a prenominated or paramount winning zone associated with each said player zone and dealer zone. If desired the sector can also contain one or more tie zones.

Desirably a predetermined odd is allocated to the tie zones and/or the prenominated or paramount winning hand zones. In the case of Blackjack the odds are preferably about 4:1 for a tie; 9:1 for blackjack, 1:1 for dealer winning, and 1:1 for player winning.

In one preferred form the surface has a player card position and a dealer card position, and the cards for the player hand and the dealer hand are respectively placed in the player card position and the dealer card position.

The cards may include one or more sets of numbered cards, one or more sets of picture cards and at least one set of "Ace" cards. Each numbered card has a value from 2 to 10, each picture card is given the value of 10, and each "Ace" card is selectively counted as 1 or 11.

In a particular preferred form of the game rules a bet on one of the player betting zones or on one of the dealer betting zones is a winning bet when the player hand or the dealer hand has a cumulative card values closest to 21 or has a Blackjack; and a bet on one of said further betting zones associated with the player betting zones or the dealer zones is a winning bet when the player hand or the dealer hand has said prenominated or paramount winning hand.

More particularly a card is given to each said player hand and the dealer hand and the player hand must draw a card when its card value or cumulative card value is under 17. The player hand may immediately be declared a winning

hand when it has a Blackjack hand, or can be declared a winning hand only if the dealer hand does not have a Blackjack hand. When the player hand has a cumulative card value exceeding 21 the dealer hand is immediately declared a winning hand, or is required to draw a card at a time until it has a cumulative
5 card value of at least 17 and not exceeding 21.

Where both the player hand and the dealer hand have their cumulative card values exceeding 21 the hand having a value closest to 21 may be declared the winning hand or alternatively a tie may be declared.

The card game may be played at a game table or on an electronic medium
10 including an interactive video and/or audio medium such as a television network, a computer network and any other suitable communications network.

Preferably said computer network is the Internet or an intranet of networked computers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

15 In order that the present invention can be readily understood and put into practical effect the description will now refer to the accompanying drawings which illustrate an embodiment of the present invention and wherein:-

Figure 1 shows a layout of a surface for a dealer "Blackjack" game as an embodiment of the invention.

20 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring now to Figure 1 there is shown a dealer "Blackjack" playing surface 10 for the dealer blackjack game according to an embodiment of the present invention. The surface 10 is semi-circular shaped and has a curved side 12 and a straight side 14.

25 The surface 10 includes seven sectors 16 of betting areas. Each sector 16 has player "Blackjack" betting zone 18, a player betting zone 20, a dealer "Blackjack" playing zone 22, a dealer betting zone 24 and a tie betting zone 26.

The surface 10 also has a playing card area 28 and a dealer card area 30 as shown in Figure 1.

30 A set of token boxes 32 is provided adjacent to the side 14. A shoe box 34 for cards is also provided. In this embodiment the game can be played with six to eight full decks of cards.

In this example the tie zones 26 are allocated the odd of four to one (4:1) and the "Blackjack" zones 18, 22 nine to one (9:1). Both the player betting zones 20 and the dealer betting zones 24 are paid even money. As usual, house commission of about 5% will be deducted from some or all of the winning bets.

5 The game has two hands, the player's and the dealer's. These are "community hands" for all participants who can place bets on any betting zones of the player or the dealer. That means a player simply bets against the cards and not playing against other players or the house.

10 In this game the values for the cards are the same for normal blackjack games. That is, the values of the numbered cards are as indicated on the cards and the picture cards (Jack, Queen and King) are counted as 10. Ace cards can be counted as 1 or 11.

15 In use, players can place bets on any of the zones 18 to 26 in any of the sectors 16. Accordingly, the players need to consider only how much to bet and whether to bet on the player or the dealer to win, and/or to opt for a tie hand, blackjack for the player or blackjack for the dealer.

 When all the bets are placed a dealer retrieves a card from the shoe box 32 for each of the player area 28 and the dealer area 30. A second card is also retrieved and placed on the player area 28.

20 If the player's hand has a cumulative value of 16 or less the dealer continues to draw a card to the player's hand until the total score is 17 or more. If the player's hand has a cumulative value of 17 or more the player's hand must stand. The player is declared "bust" when his hand has a cumulative value higher than 21.

25 In one example, when the player's hand busts the dealer is declared the winner. In an alternative example when the player's hand busts the dealer hand must draw a card if it is 16 or less. The dealer is declared a winner only when his hand has a cumulative value of 16 or more and does not exceed 21.

30 In both examples, the hand closest to 21 wins and a tie occurs when both hands have the same value.

 In said alternative example, if both hands bust the hand closest to 21 wins.

Blackjack is the paramount hand in this embodiment of the invention. Blackjack occurs when a hand has an ace card and a picture or a 10 card in the first two cards dealt to the hand.

5 A tie occurs when both the dealer hand and the player hand blackjacks or the same cumulative values.

When a tie occurs only bets on the tie zones 26 win. All other bets are a draw or a "stand off" i.e. neither a win nor a loss.

10 In this embodiment of the invention the "insurance" play as is generally known in the normal Blackjack game is not provided for.

Whilst the above has been given by way of illustrative example of the present invention many variations and modifications thereto will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the broad ambit and scope of the invention as set out in the appended claims.

15

CLAIMS

1. A card game for a dealer and at least one imaginary or real player receiving cards from the dealer, the game comprising a playing surface having at least two
5 sides, one or more designated player betting zones along one side of the surface, where participants can bet on the player winning, one or more designated dealer betting zones along an opposite side of the surface where the participants can bet on the dealer winning, and one or more further betting zones associated with
10 respective player and dealer betting zones, the or each said further betting zones being designated for a prenominated or paramount winning hand for participants to place bets thereon, and in use one or each participant places a bet on one or more of the betting zones and a dealer deals from one or more packs of cards
15 cards for the player and the dealer in a manner according to card game rules, on completion of a hand participants are paid according to winning bets made and according to the game rules.
2. The card game according to claim 1 wherein the surface has one or more tie zones for participants to place bets thereon so that a winning bet takes place when the dealer hand and the player hand are tied.
3. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 2 wherein said further
20 betting zones including one or more prenominated or paramount winning zones for the dealer and one or more prenominated or paramount winning zones for the player.
4. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the prenominated winning hand is "Blackjack" in the game of that name.
- 25 5. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the playing surface is divided into sectors and each sector has one player betting zone, one dealer betting zone and a prenominated or paramount winning hand betting zone associated with each said player betting zone and dealer betting zone.
6. The card game according to claim 5 wherein each said sector has one or
30 more tie zones.
7. The card game according to claim 5 or 6 wherein a predetermined odd is allocated to each said tie zone and/or each said prenominated or paramount winning hand betting zones.

8. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the surface has a player card position and a dealer card position, and the cards for the player hand and the dealer hand are respectively placed in the player card position and the dealer card position.

5 9. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the cards including one or more sets of numbered cards, one or more sets of picture cards and at least one set of "Ace" cards, and each numbered card having a value from 2 to 10, each picture card being designated the value of 10, and each "Ace" card being selectively counted as the value of 1 or 11.

10 10. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein for the game rules a bet on one of the player betting zones or on one of the dealer betting zones is a winning bet when the player hand or the dealer hand has a cumulative card values closest to 21 or has a Blackjack; and a bet on one of said further betting zones associated with the player betting zones or the dealer zones is a
15 winning bet when the player hand or the dealer hand has said preominated or paramount winning hand.

11. The card game according to claim 10 wherein a card is given to each said player hand and the dealer hand and the player hand must draw a card when its card value or cumulative card value is under 17; when the player hand having a
20 Blackjack hand the player hand is either immediately declared a winning hand, or is declared a winning hand only if the dealer hand does not have a Blackjack hand; when the player hand having a cumulative card value exceeding 21 the dealer hand is either immediately declared a winning hand, or is required to draw a card at a time until having a cumulative card value of at least 17 and not
25 exceeding 21.

12. The card game according to claim 10 or 11 wherein where both the player hand and the dealer hand have respectively cumulative card values exceeding 21 the hand having a value closest to 21 is declared the winning hand or alternatively a tie is declared.

30 13. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 121 wherein the game is played at a game table or on an electronic medium including an interactive

video and/or audio medium such as a television network, a computer network and any other suitable communications network.

14. The card game according to claim 13 wherein said computer network is the Internet or an intranet of networked computers.

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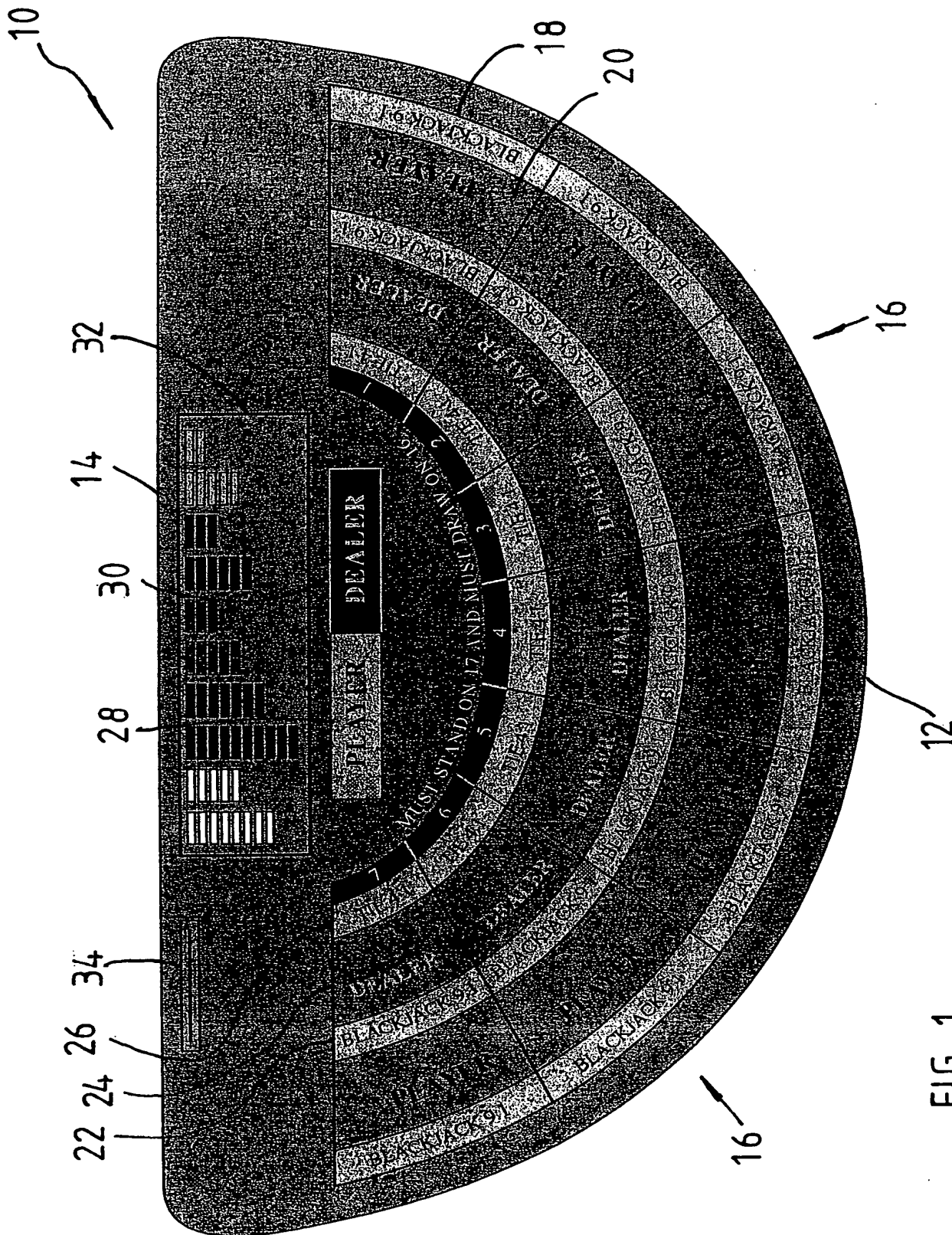


FIG. 1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU 99/00357

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTERInt Cl⁶: A63F 001/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHEDMinimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC A63F 001/00Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
AU:IPC AS ABOVEElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WPAT**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5257810 (SCHORR et al.) 2 November 1993 See whole document	1-14
A	US 5390934 (GRASSA) 21 February 1995 See in particular column 6 lines 38-61	1-14
A	US 5275416 (SCHORR et al.) 4 January 1994 See whole document	1-14

☐ Further documents are listed in the
continuation of Box C☐ See patent family annex

<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>		<p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 22 July 1999	Date of mailing of the international search report 28 JUL 1999
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